GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3535
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2001
CHILD TRAFFICKING DURING HAJ
JASWANT SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has urged the Government to take steps to prevent child trafficking during Haj;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the child trafficking?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): The National Human Rights Commission has suggested certain preventive measures to be taken by the Central Government and the Govt. of West Bengal etc. to tackle the problem of child trafficking during Haj . These measures, inter-alia include raising of awareness among communities regarding child trafficking; steps to stop entry of migrants from Bangladesh to West Bengal; individual passport to be issued to every child instead of endorsing the name of the child on the passport of the escort; interrogation of disabled children travelling to Saudi Arabia by Immigration Authorities; involvement of Reserve Bank of India; Central Ministry of Labour in consultation with Govt. of West Bengal and UNICEF to conduct study and plan child development Schemes for the area from where children are recruited for begging and various steps to be taken by Govt. of West Bengal etc.

(c): The State Govt. of West Bengal has issued necessary instructions/advisories to the functionaries of the State Govt., Government of India, RBI and the State Haj Committee who are concerned with the problem to adopt the preventive measures with an eye on combating the problem. The State Govt. has also taken steps to create awareness against the problem in the concerned districts.

Ministry of External Affairs has also issued instructions that every child will be issued a separate passport rather than endorsing the name of the child on the passport of the escort.